Class suit filed to decommission San Roque dam ACROSS / A20 | **Ongpin bloc acquires 28% of SMC** BUSINESS / B1 | **Cable firm filmed Obama dinner crashers** WORLD / A28

MILF scoffs at claim tying rebs to murders

By Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday scoffed at the claim of Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. that MILF rebels were behind the Nov. 23 mass murder in Maguindanao.

MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar said Ampatuan's claim was

MILF SCOFFS/A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, November 28, 2009 • 17 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 353 P18

GMA gives Puno control over ARMM

By TJ Burgonio and Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESterday gave Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno the authority to exercise administrative control over the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in the aftermath of the bloody massacre in Maguindanao earlier this week.

Puno has been given the power to suspend all local officials who may have had a

GMA GIVES/A17

‘He took part in killings’



DOJ to file 7 counts of murder vs Andal Jr.

By Norman Bordadora and Jocelyn R. Uy

STATE PROSECUTORS have found sufficient evidence to recommend the filing of murder charges against Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. in connection with the killing of seven of at least 64 persons killed in Maguindanao on Nov. 23.

"He was giving instructions, he was there when the convoy was blocked, and he was among those who took part in the killings," Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said of the prosecutors' findings on Ampatuan's involvement in the worst election-related violence in the country.

Devanadera told reporters that the prose-

HE TOOK/A11

Ampatuan foe Lakas bet for governor

By Aquiles Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINdanao—Saying "only death can stop me from running," Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu yesterday filed his certificate of candidacy (CoC) for governor of Maguindanao, driving past an area where five days ago his wife and more than 50 other people were slaughtered in cold blood.

Mangudadatu was accompanied by administration party standard-bearer Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and escorted by soldiers, policemen and supporters when he rode into the

AMPATUAN/A8

Massacre death toll reaches 64

By Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINdanao—The grassy hill of Barangay Salman in nearby Ampatuan town continued to give up corpses.

A total of 64 cadavers have been retrieved since Monday's mass murder, which was allegedly carried out by a group headed by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., a ranking police officer said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Rogen Zagales, of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Central Mindanao, who was helping in the gathering of evidence, did not say when the additional bodies were dug up.

But he told the Inquirer that the sheer number of victims proved that "those responsible for it were out of their minds."

"I have never seen in my life killings as gruesome as this," Zagales said.

Norodin Mamalinta, Cabinet secretary of the Autonomous Re-

MASSACRE/A10

PRIME SUSPECT Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. holds his detainee number while being photographed inside his detention cell at the NBI headquarters in Manila on Friday. Ampatuan is the prime suspect in the massacre last Monday of 64 people, including 27 journalists, in Maguindanao province. RAFFY LERMA / ARNOLD ALMACEN

Talk rife GMA ready to file CoC as Pampanga lawmaker

By TJ Burgonio

ALL THE SIGNS POINT TO PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo running for a congressional seat next year, as some officials and even her election lawyer have noted.

All that is needed is for her to actually file a certificate of candidacy, said Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio.

As more than a hundred supporters from Ms Arroyo's Pampanga home province staged a rally in Malacañang yesterday to urge her to stand for the province's second-district seat, Romulo Macalintal, the President's election lawyer, said she would be making an announcement before the day ended.

A beaming Ms Arroyo thanked her supporters but did not respond to their clamor.

TALK RIFE/A12



GUEST CANDIDATE Sen. Miriam Santiago shows her certificate of candidacy for senator which she filed at the Comelec in Intramuros, Manila on Friday. ARNOLD ALMACEN



TWO FOR THE HOUSE Ramon Arenas Jr. (left), son of socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas (right), files his certificate of candidacy for congressman in Iloilo at the provincial Comelec office on Friday. His sister, Ms. Rachel Arenas, is a Pangasinan representative.

Peacemakers in Sarangani, Cotabato win Galing Pook

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IN A COUNTRY STILL IN SHOCK OVER an unimaginable political massacre, three local government units from far-flung provinces have shown that peace, if sincerely pursued by local leaders, is not elusive after all.

For being peacemakers in their own way, the remote province of Sarangani, the small town of Midsayap in Cotabato and the municipality of Tabuk in Kalinga each won a Galing Pook Award.

Galing Pook Foundation executive director Eddie Dorotan says: "These winners show that peace is possible if leaders have the will to pursue it."

He adds: "Conflicts should not be resolved by violence. We cannot resolve conflicts through physical atrocities. In the end, everyone loses in violence."

Like its neighbors in Mindanao, the town of Midsayap has witnessed numerous bloody feuds between families, locally known as "rido," mostly because of land disputes.

PEACEMAKERS/A12

Giant Binay photo mosaic guns for Guinness record

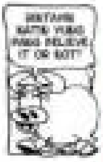
By Allison W. Lopez

MOVE OVER, PUNY BILLboards.

A 32,000-square-foot photo mosaic that looks like a large—or rather a giant—image of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay was unveiled in Makati City yesterday, beating out billboards and streamers of politicians eyeing posts in 2010.

Binay, however, was quick to say that the tarpaulin, which nearly covered the whole field of

GIANT/A22





LARGER THAN LIFE A photo mosaic of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is unveiled at University of Makati Track and Field Oval on Friday. The size of eight basketball courts, the giant mosaic is a present to Binay and an entry to the Guinness World Records. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage


HUNGER strikers hold their hands together during a Thanksgiving Mass in front of the DENR offices in Quezon City.

Mangyans end hunger strike

AFTER STAGING A HUNGER STRIKE FOR 11 DAYS, Mangyans of Mindoro and their sympathizers finally ended their protest yesterday when Environment Secretary Lito Atienza announced the temporary revocation of the controversial environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for large-scale mining issued to a Norwegian company that would be located in watershed areas and Mangyan ancestral domain.

Revoked

Investigation team

Victory

Moratorium

Massacre suspect declared fit

THE MAIN SUSPECT IN THE MAGUINDANAO massacre is healthy and apparently none the worse for whatever ordeal he went through the past days, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

CHR takes cudgels for Ang Ladlad



REMOTO

Sandiganbayan allows Disini to travel abroad











Philippine College of Surgeons

The Organization of Surgical Specialists in the Philippines

65th Annual Clinical Congress

December 6-9, 2009

SMX Convention Center, Seashell Drive

SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

The Philippine College of Surgeons promotes the highest quality surgical care.

The Philippine College of Surgeons celebrates its 65th Annual Clinical Congress with the theme "**NEW FRONTIERS IN SURGICAL ONCOLOGY AND INFECTIONS**".

The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS) was established on September 12, 1936 at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios in Intramuros, Manila. It was through the effort of the late Dr. Gregorio T. Singian and thirty-five "forward-thinking" surgeons of that time to start an organization of surgeons devoted to give the highest quality of patient-care rooted on truth and integrity. A surgeon who then becomes a member of the PCS is honored with the title "Fellow". This distinguished designation is bestowed upon a surgeon who is safe, judicious, and responsible with his practice. The organization has steadily developed throughout the years and is now well known for promoting social responsibility, quality of care for patients, and teamwork.

Today the PCS has grown to 11 chapters representing different regions of the country. Its members totaling more than 3,000 are from 20 certified surgical societies. A secretariat, located at the 3rd Floor of the PCS Building along EDSA, Quezon City, is the central coordinating body that strengthens our activities and programs, acts as a nerve center to integrate and implement policies and decisions of the Board of Regents for the different standing committees.

Because cancer and surgical infections are two of the most common diseases in surgery, it is but fitting that the College update the Fellows with the latest in the diagnosis and management of these two maladies - through this years' clinical congress. Traditional and time-tested surgical practices notwithstanding, since surgery is a very dynamic science, this congress will be a good venue for the Fellows and all practitioners of medicine interested in surgery to learn the latest insofar as these two problem areas are concerned.

The congress organizers are optimistic that the scientific program they prepared will further enlighten the surgical community and be clarified on which treatment is the best for patients with malignancy or infection. Well-known local and foreign speakers have been invited to share their expertise through lectures, panel discussions, case clinics, interactive sessions and lay fora.

PCS Board of Regents, 2009



Seated from Left - Right: [illegible]

Standing from Left - Right: [illegible]



AVENILO P. AVENTURA SR., M.D.
DR. SINGIAN LECTURER
Philippine College of Surgeons

A Pioneer in Philippine Cardiovascular Surgery

[illegible]

2009, LIST OF INITIATES

COLORECTAL SURGERY
[illegible]

ENT SURGERY
[illegible]

GENERAL SURGERY
[illegible]

NEURO SURGERY
[illegible]

OB-GYNE
[illegible]

OPHTHALMOLOGY
[illegible]

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
[illegible]

PLASTIC SURGERY
[illegible]

TCVS
[illegible]

TRANSPLANT SURGERY
[illegible]

UROLOGY
[illegible]

PLENARY SPEAKERS



PCS Secretariat: 3rd Flr., PCS Bldg., 992 EDSA, Q.C. • Tel. Nos. 927-4973 to 74; 928-1083 & 929-2359
Fax No. 929-2297 • E-mail: pcs@pcs.org.ph • Website: pcs.org.ph

Unicef staffer shot dead in tense Maguindanao

LP, NP bare respective senatorial candidates



RET. Gov. Danny Lim: Renegade bet



ELY PAMATONG: Perennial candidate

Gov't sets aside ₱40M for polls in HK, Singapore



₱2-B expansion fund for Subic, Clark eyed

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direct sales



For the past 25 years, Splash Corporation grew as the beauty expert and charged through the top with its dominance of the exfoliant and whitening categories. Now, it expands even further as it invades the direct selling industry through its new Splash Direct Sales division. By venturing in this new business, Splash greatly strengthens its leadership position in personal care.

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Ampatuan foe Lakas bet for governor



MILF scoffs at claim tying rebs to murders

‘He took part in killings,’ says DOJ chief Devanadera



Under surveillance

More arrests possible

20 witnesses

Ampatuan shocked

Atmosphere of fear

Pimentel calls for arrest of Ampatuan patriarch

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Massacre death toll reaches 64

Will justice be done?

Unclaimed bodies

One body, 2 claimants

Dental records

Backhoe operator in massacre may be dead, says CIDG

By Marlon Ramos

Road project

Ballistic tests

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.

53rd Annual Convention

Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
November 29 – December 01, 2009

Theme: "Larynx in Focus"



[illegible]



[illegible]



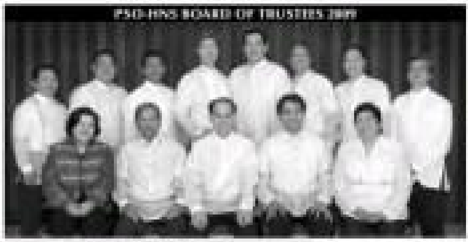
PLENARY SPEAKERS



FOREIGN SPEAKERS

[illegible]

PSO-HNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2009



[illegible]

PROGRAM at a Glance

[illegible]

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE 2009



[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Extraordinary people

EDITORIAL



Warlords in a weak state

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



Murphy's Law: a threat to 2010 elections

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



The scale of 'rido' in Mindanao



Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

Check out your neighborhood library hubs

Commentary

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

Kill 'Bill'?



Business Matters

Roberto F. de Ocampo

Perfect shirt

Young Blood

Glen Dex Go

Failure

Johnny Esmilla Jr.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

They Said

Higher standard

Who really is the 'sick man'?

LETTERS

—LITO RG LAO, lao_icons@yahoo.com

Maguindanao massacre: catharsis for nation

'War' vs gender violence still has long way to go

Comelec's judgment on gays a serious mistake

2 Army commanders sacked

By Jocelyn R. Uy

[illegible]

GMA gives Puno control over ARMM

[illegible]

More muscle

[illegible]

Redeem RP's honor

[illegible]

New probe team

[illegible]

INQUIRER Visayas

Abused children find love in this home

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

IN 1992, WHEN KHENNA MARIE was 10 years old, her father, in one of his fits of madness as an alcoholic, tied her and her two brothers to a tree to burn them alive.

As the father went away to get matches, one of her brothers broke loose and shouted to her to run. She refused.

"I just stood there. After so much physical abuse, I told myself I would much rather die than live another day such as this," Khenna said.

Her brothers had to drag her away from the place.

The pain began to stop only a year after, when Khenna was rescued by American Pastor Joe Romantino and his wife, Billie.

The Romantinos brought the young girl to their Calvary Chapel Home in Barangay Handumanan in Bacolod City. The place, through the years, has taken care of about 400 abandoned, abused and disabled children, and saw some of them growing up to become nurses, teachers and social workers working here and abroad.

"I am thankful to the Lord for giving me parents (the Romantinos) who have loved me as their own. I never had that before I met them," Khenna said.

"I did not come to an orphanage, I came to a home," she said. "And the kind of love God has given us is stronger than any biological bond."

Khenna said her father would hurt her mother and grandmother, and would often beat her and her nine other siblings.

Khenna graduated valedictorian from high school and cum laude in nursing from the Riverside College in Bacolod. She earned a second degree in education.

Now 26, Khenna is the school nurse at the Calvary Chapel Christian School, which provides education from preschool to high school, including special education, for the 150 children currently living in the home.

She also handles classes in Grades 2 and 3.



KHENNA (left) and the parents who gave her love, Billie and Joe Romantino. CARLA P. GOMEZ

A butterfly

Annie, the school principal, has a master's degree in education. To spare her family from public scrutiny, she opted not to give her real identity when interviewed.

Annie recalled that her father, when drunk, would threaten her and her six other siblings with a bolo, and would often beat them and her mother.

So when they knew he was drunk, the siblings would jump out of the window of their house and hide in a nearby sugarcane field or stay with their neighbor.

Their mother would come looking for us the next day when he was already sober, she said.

"In 1996, when I was 16, the Lord brought me to the Romantinos by one of our neighbors for Bible study classes," Annie said.

"I was bitter, angry and hostile to my father and my family then. And in the Bible study classes, I found a place where I would pour my heart out. They (Romantinos) took me into their home and took care of me as their daughter," Annie said. "It was the first time I really felt I had a home. I found peace, love and joy from the Lord Jesus Christ, and realized that bitterness and hatred was not good."

Annie described her new life. "I was a caterpillar before I found them and became a butterfly with them."

Joe's life

Joe Romantino said his parents were drunks, too. When he was small, they separated. He had to live in an orphanage for five years.

So when he and his wife started their home for abandoned and abused children in Bacolod, "I didn't want it to be like the one I had to go through—I knew these kids needed love, a father and mother, but most of all they needed Christ," he said.

As a child, Joe lived through six foster parents and no love. When he was 17, he quit school and joined the US Marines because, he said, he had nothing going for him.

Joe said he found the Lord when he was 28 and it changed his life.

He and Billie, who was then a manager of a big department store in California, taught Sunday school and did short-term missionary work in the Philippines, China and Mexico.

When Joe retired in 1988, the couple decided to move from Temecula, California, to Bacolod as missionaries. It was then the height of the sugar crisis in Negros Occidental that left many children starving.

The Romantinos started a feeding center in Barangay 40 for children, held Bible studies and helped children with cleft palates undergo surgery through Operation Smile.

One day they were asked to take care of two children who had been physically abused by their grandfather and father. Their mother was mentally unstable.

"Their little hearts and minds were bruised, and we gave them love," Billie said.

Soon, more and more children were brought to them. The Romantinos had to moved five times from one rented house to another to accommodate their fast growing family.

With 27 children, it was hard for them to find a big enough house to live in, and then the Lord provided, Billie said.

Through their family inheritance, the couple bought a 10,000-square meter sugarcane land in 1992 in Barangay Handumanan, and turned it into the Calvary Chapel Home.

The place was accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the site of the school. It also has a playground, a heated swimming pool for therapy sessions of special children, an aviary and 70 dogs.

Billie painted the walls of the home with happy bright prints. The older children help take care of the younger ones, including a 4-month-old baby.

Engraved in the heart

Billie said she could remember the names of all her 150 children because the story of each of them was engraved in her heart.

The home is now filled with smiles and laughter, and freshly baked cookies. It also has a rice field and gardens as sources of their food, and a crafts room where the children make necklaces and clothes, and print designs on T-shirts to sell.

"We want them to be creative and let them express themselves through things they make, but not be pressured to do the work so that they would not lose their childhood. We don't want to lose sight of our main goal to take care of them and to let them be children," Billie said.

Funds come mostly from donations from ordinary people in the United States and groups, such as the Kalipay Negrense Foundation in the province.

To keep the place going, the Romantinos said they needed to become more self-sufficient in producing their own food. That is why they are praying that they will raise enough money to buy a 1.5-hectare property adjacent to the home.

They also want another property where they will put up a halfway house for sexually abused children, including incest and prostitution.

"We need a separate place for them, it would not work if they were immediately placed with the other children, as they could become predators," Billie said.

The sexually abused children must undergo counseling and be prepared for integration into a regular home, she explained.

"It's just a dream but we pray it could easily become a reality," she said.

Also helping the Romantinos run the home is Terry Halterman, who came in 1991 and stayed briefly as a missionary. He returned two years later to reside permanently in the home.

"Everybody needs a place to feel welcome and special. Can you imagine if you were a child and the people who are supposed to love you are the ones hurting you?" Billie said.

"Some of the children stay for an hour, a week or until they grow up, but for as long as they are here, we will love them, make them feel safe and help them overcome the things they had gone through," she said.

Every child deserves that, she said.

"Some of them may not finish college, but whatever they become in life, we hope to raise them to become good citizens with God at the center of their lives," Billie said.

Noah was just a few days old when he was brought to the Romantinos at the height of Typhoon "Ruping." He was barely a kilo and was only wrapped with a cloth. No one knew his parents.

"When we brought Noah to the hospital because he was starting to turn blue, the doctors told me, 'Nanay, he's dying' and that I could hold him, but if he stopped breathing, I should just lay him down on the bed," Billie said.

"I held Noah in my arms from 11 in the evening to 6 a.m. and, five times, he died in my arms because he stopped breathing. But every time I would lay him down on the bed, he would start breathing again," she said.

Today, Noah is 18 and is in second year high school. He pushes like his Nanay Billie, plays the drums in the home's band and helps take care of the handicapped.

The home has 25 handicapped children, but "we can be the eyes, legs, arms and voices for them," Billie said.

Only recently, Joe said he received a call from a government hospital that a little baby named Mary needed a home, but nobody wanted her.

"I told them I would be there in an hour to get her. Mary has no arms, no fingers and no tongue, but since he came to the home, he has learned to hold his baby bottle with his arms, is eating rice cereal on her own and can stand up," Joe said.

"We are Filipinos in our heart and are here to stay. Our Filipino kids at the home have had so many people in their lives who have walked away from them, they need to have someone to say, 'hey, we're here to stay'," Billie said.

Fund-raising

HELPING RAISE FUNDS TO KEEP THE Calvary Chapel Home going is the Kalipay Negrense Foundation, which helps homeless, malnourished, physically and sexually abused and out of school children.

Its president, Annie Bañolfo, said Kalipay also helps raise funds for the schooling of the children going to college.

"We do our share to make sure that these beautiful homes for disadvantaged children never have to give up," Bañolfo said.

"If we don't break the chain of pain that these children are suffering, they can become future criminals. We have to take them away from the horrors that no child should ever have to experience and give them a new beginning in a home where they feel safe, they are protected and loved."

Those interested in helping may contact Bañolfo or Kalipay vice president John Gayoso at 09172803505 or send an e-mail to kalipaynegrensefoundation@yahoo.com.

Celebrate the triumph of the human spirit.


'Greatest fighter of

Pacquiao squashes Cotto with TKO win

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Victory lifts Filipino spirit

Read our daily sports news and analyses

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SPORTS

Class suit filed to decommission dam



By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—A GROUP OF PANGASINAN LAWYERS ON FRIday asked a court here to order the National Power Corp. and the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC) to decommission the San Roque Dam in San Manuel town to stop it from causing "further destruction" and "great and irreparable injury" to the province.



DOCUMENTS are dried in the sun in Villasis, Pangasinan, after the worst flooding ... and offices. The flooding, many residents believe, was worsened by the release of water from several dams.

Stock Market Challenge Monthly Update

Inquirer Business

Overall Performance Standings and Portfolio Summary
For the Period Ending November 25, 2009
(Original Virtual Investment: P500,000.00)

1st Place: Trust Me

2nd Place: The Greats

3rd Place: GB Trader

4th Place: Integrator

5th Place: Trader 29

6th Place: CycleReader

7th Place: Ponkan

No total ouster of rebs in 2010

TACLOBAN CITY—A military officer in Eastern Visayas has admitted that New People's Army rebels would still be around after the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had ordered the Armed Forces ...

Gov't lawyer starts probe of Baguio fuel 'overprice'

BAGUIO CITY—A GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR is investigating reports that petroleum products sold in this city is "overpriced."



DIESEL pumps have dried up and gasoline supplies almost went gone in Baguio City at the height of Typhoon "Pepeng."

Pampanga race: Pineda to give it another try

Shabby treatment

Jueteng, STL



YELLOW SPOT

Binay in Tarlac sortie says it's Noynoy and him

By Tonette Orejas

Ilocos for Marcos, not Villar-Keon



Political trash in Quezon stays after new SC ruling

Hagedorn-commissioned SWS poll Nov. 4-8: Noy ahead with 47%

Gauge

Margin of error

Support base

'I wanted to be guided by its results on whether or not to accept several offers to run for a national position...'

Students, evacuees struggle for normalcy



Female artist builds Palawan's giant Christmas tree



Albay equips parishes with disaster gadgets

Crop forecasting to help farmers face climate change impact

Peacemakers in Sarangani, Cotabato win



14 best projects

Integrating Islamic values

Resolving conflicts

Other Mindanao winners

Visayas, Luzon winners

MetroManila winners

Talk rife GMA ready to file CoC as Pampanga lawmaker



Body language

Need not resign

'Harmless rally'

Obvious signs

Giant Binay photo mosaic guns for Guinness record

Biggest in the country

Premature campaigning?

Where to hang Binay

Slashed price


Join our Grand Open House at the site on Nov. 28, Sunday
UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY.
GOVERNOR'S HILLS
Governor's Drive, Gen. Trias, Cavite
The happiest days of your life begin here...
Jazmine at Greensboro
Ysabella at Fairfield
Sophia at Greensboro
Katrina at Ridge Crest, Lakewood and Cliffwood Village
Casa Verona at Cliffwood Village
Tels: 856-7015 to 37
SUNTRUST
www.suntrust.com.ph



₱.5M for info on Ivler

Suspect's ma: Family hunted by US 'killing machine'



FOR MANILA MAYOR Former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Avelino Razon files his certificate of candidacy at the Commission on Elections office in Manila. Razon, who will run for mayor, said he would push for the removal of the controversial Pandacan oil depot.

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Beverly T. Natividad

THE MOTHER OF JASON IVLER, A SUSPECT IN the fatal shooting of the son of a Malacañang official, showed up yesterday at the National Bureau of Investigation office, claiming that the allegations against her son came about after she wrote a book "that denounces America and its killing machine."

Yesterday the reward money for information leading to Ivler's arrest was raised by the National Capital Regional Police Office yesterday from P200,000 to half a million pesos.

"For the past two years, my immediate family and I have been hunted and haunted by certain factions of the American killing machine because of my defiance against their war-mongering, because of my book," claimed Marlene Aguilar, who was invited for questioning by NBI Special Action Unit (SAU) chief Angelito Magno.

Aguilar also told reporters that she had no idea where her son was and that they had not been in touch since she last saw him the morning after Renato Victor Ebarle Jr., the son and namesake of an official of the Office of the Presidential Chief of Staff, was killed.

"On the day I launched my book 'Warriors of Heaven' on Nov. 11, my home in Blue Ridge, Quezon City, was raided by heavily armed men, including the Special Weapons and Tactics Team," she said, reading from a prepared statement.

"On the same day, my son Jason Ivler was in the headlines of all newspapers in the Philippines. The headlines claimed he had murdered someone in public," she said.

Aguilar questioned what she said was the expedited manner of the investigation turning her son to a suspect.

She claimed she wrote the book to expose America's need "to kill or control those who would question," including her, to "free people from ignorance" and "open their eyes to the truth."

"I believe the only way I can save my son's life is by stepping forward. Though I have not yet been questioned ... I have not been challenged. Let it be known, that I am, as I always have been, ready to speak out openly against the US and the Philippine government and their lies," Aguilar concluded.

She maintained that Ivler, whom she also described as "a highly trained soldier" from US Special Operations who was so long for 30 "risky" missions, could not have killed Ebarle and are "unreal" the morning after.

"I am sorry for the boy who died," Aguilar said, adding

SEE A18

₱5M for info on Ivler

Makati vice mayor splits from Binay

The Ampatuans are cowards

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo



Globe recognized at AmCham CSR Excellence Awards

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

Walter Mart

METROBRIEFS

Security watch in Metro

More complaints vs trader

Iran seizes rights lawyer's Nobel Peace medal

TEHRAN, IRAN—IRANIAN AUTHORITIES have confiscated Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi's medal, the human rights lawyer said on Thursday, in a sign of the increasingly drastic steps Tehran is taking against any dissent.

In Norway, where the peace prize is awarded, the government said the confiscation of the gold medal was a shocking first in the history of the 108-year-old prize.

Ebadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts in promoting democracy. She has long faced harassment from Iranian authorities for her activities—including threats against her relatives and a raid on her office last year in which files were confiscated.

The seizure of her prize is an expression of the Iranian government's harsh approach to anyone it considers an opponent—particularly since the massive street protests triggered by hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed June 12 reelection.

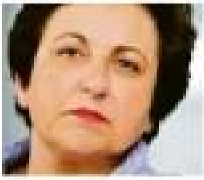
Acting on orders from Tehran's Revolutionary Court, authorities took the peace prize medal about three weeks ago from a safe-deposit box in Iran, Ebadi said in a phone interview from London. They also seized her Legion of Honor and a ring awarded to her by a German association of journalists, she said.

Authorities froze the bank accounts of her and her husband and demanded $410,000 in taxes that they claimed were owed on the $1.3 million she was awarded. Ebadi said, however, that such prizes are exempt from tax under Iranian law. She said the government also appears intent on trying to confiscate her house.

Ebadi, the first Muslim woman to be awarded the peace prize and the first female judge in Iran, said she would not be intimidated and that her absence from the country since June did not mean she felt exiled.

"Nobody is able to send me to exile from my home country," she said. "I have received many threatening messages.... They said they would detain me if I returned, or that they would make the environment unsafe for me wherever I am.

"But my activities are legal and nobody can force me from my legal activities."



Ebadi has criticized the Iranian government's crackdown on demonstrators, by those claiming the June vote was stolen from a pro-reform candidate through massive fraud.

Ebadi left the country a day before the vote to attend a conference in Spain and has not returned since. In the days after the vote, she urged the international community to reject the outcome and called for a new election monitored by the United Nations.

During the past months, hundreds of pro-reform activists have been arrested, and a mass trial has sentenced dozens to prison terms. Authorities also went after Ebadi's human rights center in Iran.

"After the election, all my colleagues in the center were either detained, or banned from traveling abroad," Ebadi said.

Calls to Iranian judiciary officials were not returned Thursday.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store called the move "shocking" and said it was "the first time a Nobel Peace Prize has been confiscated by national authorities."

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry summoned Iran's charge d'affaires in Norway Wednesday to protest the confiscation, spokeswoman Ragnhild Imerslund said.

The Foreign Ministry also "expressed grave concern" about Ebadi's husband, who it said was arrested in Tehran and "severely beaten" earlier this fall, after which his pension and bank account were frozen.

IRANIAN Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi in photo taken on June 19 in Geneva. AP

Ebadi said her husband, Javad Tavassolian, and her brother and sister have been threatened many times by authorities pushing them to persuade her to end her human rights campaigning.

Ebadi has represented opponents of Iran's regime before but not in the mass trial that started in August of more than 100 prominent pro-reform figures and activists. They are accused of plotting to overthrow the clerical regime during the postelection turmoil. AP

Polanski ready for splendid captivity

GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND—After two months in a Swiss jail, Roman Polanski has prepared for the splendid captivity of his $3.8-million chalet in one of world's most luxurious winter resorts.

Polanski will have views of snow-capped Alpine peaks, spacious rooms and all the amenities of a town with a reputation for catering to the wishes of the rich and famous.

But he won't be able to go out the front door.

In this isolated bastion of wealth, the 76-year-old director will be placed under house arrest as soon as he posts $4.5-million bail, surrenders his identity documents and is fitted with an electronic bracelet that allows authorities to monitor his whereabouts.

The Justice Ministry declined on Thursday to appeal a court decision granting Polanski bail, and said it would release him from jail while it considers whether to extradite him to the United States for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

"We need and have this feature," the ministry said in a statement.

Should he violate the terms of release, the bail will be forfeited to the Swiss government, it added.

Even without stepping outside, Polanski's life will improve from the small detention cell he had in Zurich with a sink, toilet, television and storage compartment. AP

The WORLD

Editor: Lamberto R. Gozos

Cable company filmed dinner crashers

WASHINGTON—THE COUPLE WHO CRASHED A White House state dinner were being filmed that day by a camera crew connected with a reality television program, although none of the filming took place on White House grounds, a spokesperson for the program's network said on Thursday.

The couple, Michaele and Tareq Salahi, gained access to the dinner President Barack Obama hosted for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday, although they had not been invited, prompting a security review by the Secret Service, which acknowledged that procedures were not followed properly.

Bravo Media confirmed late Thursday that Michaele Salahi is being considered as a participant in the upcoming "The Real Housewives of D.C." program and on the day of the dinner was being filmed around Washington by Half Yard Productions, the producer of the program.

"Half Yard's cameras were not inside the White House. They filmed the couple preparing for the event," Jehnnie Harrison, vice president, communications, for Bravo Media, said in an e-mail. She said the Salahis "informed Half Yard that they were invited, the producers had no reason to believe otherwise."

A Secret Service investigation of the security breach, now under way, will help determine whether the Salahis might be in some legal jeopardy, although the main focus of the review is to try to find out how someone could attend a high-profile event at the White House without having been invited.

Paul Morrison, a Virginia attorney who represented the couple in the past, said Thursday that they shouldn't need legal help.

"They just went to a party. They didn't do anything wrong," Morrison said. "I know them. I'm not aware of any reason they need representation right now."

Edwin Donovan, a Secret Service spokesperson, said Obama was never in any danger because the Salahis went through the same security screening for weapons as the 300-plus people actually invited to the dinner.

Donovan said the officers at the checkpoint involved in clearing in the dinner did not follow proper procedure when the Salahis arrived and it was determined they had not been invited. But he declined to reveal anything the Secret Service knows about what happened next.

During President George W. Bush's administration, it was standard procedure to have someone from the White House social office at the gate for state dinners and other events with large groups of visitors, according to a former senior Bush aide who spoke on condition of anonymity.

White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers, asked whether personnel from her office were at the checkpoint, said, "We were not."

Ronald Kessler, author of a book on the Secret Service, said in an interview, "While the couple did pass through a magnetometer to detect weapons, they could have assassinated the president or vice president using other means—anthrax, for example. The additional security checks referred to by the Secret Service spokesperson screen for such items as radiological contamination but would not detect unnamed biological weapons."

The couple bragged about their success on their Facebook page, displaying pictures of them with government officials and even Rahm Emanuel.

"Honored to be at the White House for the state dinner in honor of India with President Obama and our First Lady!" they wrote.

And, along with photos of the couple at the event, they wrote: "A sensational Night honoring India."

They posted this under a picture of Michaele with Vice President Joe Biden: "OMG! SO EXCITING!!!!! BIDEN JOKE ARE SMILING TOGETHER!!" *AP*



IMAGE taken from Michaele Salahi's Facebook page shows a photo of Tareq Salahi (left), Vice President Joe Biden and Michaele at the White House state dinner in Washington on Nov. 24. *AP*



With the joint cooperation of Santo Niño of Cebu Parish and St. Arnold Janssen Divine Word Parish in Cainta, "Give me your Heart for Christmas", a fund-raising concert featuring Mr. Jose Mari Chan, will be staged on December 2, 2009, Wednesday, at 8:00pm at the Meralco Theater. The sponsors of this concert are DBS Securities, Unilab, Ginebra, and others. Proceeds of this concert will help the continuing efforts to rehabilitate thousands of families in the Diocese of Cainta who had been severely devastated by typhoon "Ondoy" and the various pastoral programs of St. Arnold Janssen Divine Word Parish.

WorldBriefs

China vows to dramatically slow emissions growth

BEIJING—China promised to slow its carbon emissions, saying it would nearly halve the ratio of pollution to GDP over the next decade—a major move by the world's largest emitter whose cooperation is crucial to any deal on a global climate summit approaches. Beijing's voluntary pledge on Thursday came a day after President Barack Obama promised the US would lay out plans at the summit to substantially cut its own greenhouse gas emissions. Together, the announcements are building momentum for next month's meeting in Copenhagen. "Governments from all over the world are delivering before the climate conference," Denmark's Climate Minister Connie Hedegaard said. But environmental experts warned that China's plan does not commit it to reducing emissions—and that they will in fact continue to increase, though at a slower rate. *AP*

Iraq probe hears about Blair shift on regime change

LONDON—George W. Bush and Tony Blair appeared to have "converged" on regime change in Iraq after talks at the US president's Texas ranch in April 2002, a former British ambassador to Washington said on Thursday. Christopher Meyer, ambassador to the United States between 1997 and 2003, said private one-on-one talks between Bush and the then British Prime Minister seemed to mark an important point in the road to the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. "I know what the Cabinet Office says were the results of the meeting but to this day I am not entirely clear what degree of convergence was, if you like, signed in blood at the Crawford ranch," Meyer told a British inquiry into the Iraq war. Meyer said comments that Blair made after the Texas meeting seemed to signal that his views on whether to overthrow Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had moved toward Bush's stance. *Reuters*

Brazil: 'Gringos' must pay to stop Amazon razing

MANAUS, Brazil—Brazil's president said on Thursday that "gringos" should pay Amazon nations to prevent deforestation, insisting rich Western nations have caused much more and more environmental destruction than the loggers and farmers who cut and burn trees in the world's largest tropical rain forest. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva made the comments just before an Amazon summit in which delegations signed a declaration calling for financial help from the industrial world to halt the deforestation that causes global warming. "I don't want any gringo asking us to let an Amazon resident die of hunger under a tree," Silva said. *AP*

Dublin bishops shielded child-abusing priests

DUBLIN—ROMAN Catholic Church leaders in Dublin spent decades shielding child-abusing priests from the law and most fellow clerics turned a blind eye, an investigation ordered by Ireland's government concluded.

Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, who handed over more than 60,000 previously secret church files to the three-year investigation, said he felt deep shame and sorrow for how previous archbishops presided over endemic child abuse—yet claimed afterward not to understand the gravity of their sins.

Martin said his four predecessors in Ireland's capital, including retired Cardinal Desmond Connell, most have not deemed that priests' molestation of boys and girls "was a crime in both civil and canon law. He wants them—or rather they felt they could deal with all this in little worlds of their own.

"They were wrong, and children were left to suffer."

There was a similarly shocking investigation into decades of unchecked child abuse in Irish schools, workhouses and orphanages run nationwide by 18 Catholic orders of nuns, priests and brothers.

That report in May sought to document the scale of abuse as well as the reasons why church and state authorities didn't stop it, whereas Thursday's 720-page report focused on why church leaders in the Dublin Archdiocese—home to a quarter of Ireland's four million Catholics—did not tell police about a single abuse complaint against a priest until 1995.

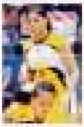
By then, the investigators found, successive archbishops and their senior deputies—among them qualified lawyers—already had compiled confidential files on more than 100 parish priests who had sexually abused children since 1940. Those files had remained locked in the Dublin archbishop's private vault.

The investigators also dug up a paper trail documenting the church's long-secret insurance policy, taken out in 1987, to cover potential lawsuits and compensation to victims. Dublin church leaders publicly denied the existence of the problem for a decade afterward—but since the mid-1990s have paid out more than 10 million euros ($15 million) in settlements and legal bills.

The report cited documents showing how church officials learned about some cases only when devoutly Catholic police received complaints from children or their parents—but handed responsibility back to church leaders to sort out the problems themselves.

Thursday's report detailed "sample" cases of 46 priests who faced 320 documented complaints, although the investigators said they were confident the priests had abused many more children than that. They cited testimony from one priest who admitted abusing more than 100 children, and another priest who said he abused a child approximately every two weeks for 25 years.

Just 11 of the 46 ultimately were convicted of abusing children—typically decades after church leaders learned of their crimes. *AP*



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Adamson, UST arrange clash for V-L crown /A31

SPORTS

■ Thanksgiving Day Triumphs /A32



Alcano rises, gains last 64



SEA Games athletes will receive funding

UE battles Cebu five

World chess: So battles ex-child prodigy, eyes last 16


SO

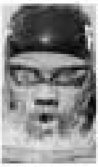
Texters shock Whoppers with big rally


HARVEY Carey (right) and the Tropang Texters ...

Alcantara reaches Phinma semifinals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Lacuna resets age-group pool record


LACUNA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Sportswatch

PFF holds congress

A lot smarter than the childish POC-PSC war

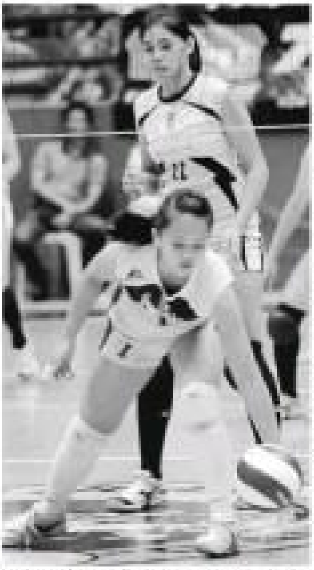
Bare Eye


Recah Trinidad

Fierce Fighter spearheads PCSO Anniversary Cup field

By Maomg R. Castillo

China ends U16 hopes of 'gallant' Nationals



Adamson, UST arrange clash for V-L crown

World Cup: Que, Pucay 14 off pace; Ireland up

Buddies turn back Stallions, keep Liga hopes alive

Fiba girls hoops: RP girls face tall order

UAAP squads banner Milo 3-on-3 basketball

UFL Reaches the Quarterfinals

SPORTS

Thanksgiving Day triumphs



ORLANDO Magic center Dwight Howard (right) tries to barrel past the defense of Atlanta Hawks forward Al Horford.

Orlando clips Atlanta; Utah crushes Chicago

ATLANTA—DWIGHT HOWARD RESPONDED TO A HALFTIME challenge from his coach to lead the Orlando Magic to a 93-76 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Thanksgiving Day Thursday.

Howard amassed 21 points and 17 rebounds as the Magic recovered from a slow start to hand the Hawks their first home loss of the season.

"He's a monster," teammate Anthony Johnson said of Howard. "At halftime, the coach challenged him to be the best man on the court and he stepped up and did that."

Atlanta was attempting to record a 9-0 home start for the first time since the 1993-94 season but instead slipped to a second straight defeat, despite 22 points from Joe Johnson.

The Hawks took a 51-39 lead into halftime but quickly lost momentum in the second half.

Vince Carter recorded 21 points and nine rebounds for the Magic, who surged ahead on the back of a 23-8 run in the fourth quarter that put the visitors 90-73 ahead with 1:58 left.

The win moved Orlando (12-4) ahead of the Hawks (11-4) at the top of the Southeast Division.

Atlanta has been a surprise package in the Eastern Conference this season thanks in part to improved play from forward Josh Smith and the acquisition of key reserve Jamal Crawford.

Smith had 15 points and 10 rebounds and the Hawks closed the first half with a 16-3 run and held the Magic to just one field goal in that stretch.

However, the game turned in the third when Atlanta was outscored 28-14.

"We became a jump shooting team in the third quarter," Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "They were going inside and getting to the free throw line and they made shots."

Last season's Defensive Player of the Year, Howard showed his offense with 13 points in the second third and also finished with four blocks.

In Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored 28 points on 12-for-13 shooting as the Utah Jazz routed the Chicago Bulls, 105-86.

Deron Williams had 21 points and six assists for the Jazz, while Boozer also had eight rebounds, five assists and three blocks.

Luol Deng had 20 points and eight rebounds for Chicago. *Reuters, AP*

PBA mulls hiring of Asian imports

By Jasmine W. Payo

ASK'S BEST CAGERS may just suit up as imports in the season-ending Fiesta Cup conference of the Philippine Basketball Association.

The PBA board of governors unanimously agreed in a meeting Thursday to dump Americans in favor of Asian reinforcements in the import-laced conference next year.

"We want to try something new," said Lito Alvarez, Burger King's team manager and this season's PBA chair.

"We've always had American imports. Who knows, this concept may be received well and appreciated by the viewing public."

Lebanon's Fadi El-Khatib, China's Wang Lei, Korea's Lee Ryo Jop and Iran's Mehran Hadadi Hamed Haddadi lead the list of candidates the PBA aims to lure to the Fiesta Conference tentatively set on March 31, 2010.

"The board gave us one month to study if the proposal is feasible or not," said league commissioner Sonny Barrios.

Barrios said a height limit of 6-foot-8 has been set and only players from Fiba Asia countries will be recruited. Naturalized players, though, won't be allowed to suit up.

"We're preparing this early because we also want to coordinate with the other Asian leagues," Alvarez said after the regular board meeting held at the PBA office in Libis, Quezon City.

"We have to admit, we're not yet familiar with the tournament schedule of the other leagues in Asia. So if it turns out that most of them are not available, we have a plan B."

BUSINESS

Ongpin bloc acquires 28% of SMC

P64.3B worth of shares bought from SMC Fund

A GROUP LED BY FORMER Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin, businessman Iñigo Zobel and condiments king Jose Campos yesterday acquired a 28-percent stake in San Miguel Corp. for about P64.3 billion—the largest corporate buy-in deal seen in the country so far this year.

[illegible]

ONGPIN B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower

[illegible]

IN THIS ISSUE

ERC allows Meralco to recover costs

[illegible]

ERC B2

RP targets slice of Taiwan's 'beach wedding' mart

Meco, DOT push Boracay, Palawan, Cebu, Davao



Pass bill on BSP charter, IMF urges gov't

Weakening dollar expected to weigh down RP recovery

Ongpin bloc acquires 28% ...

ERC allows ...

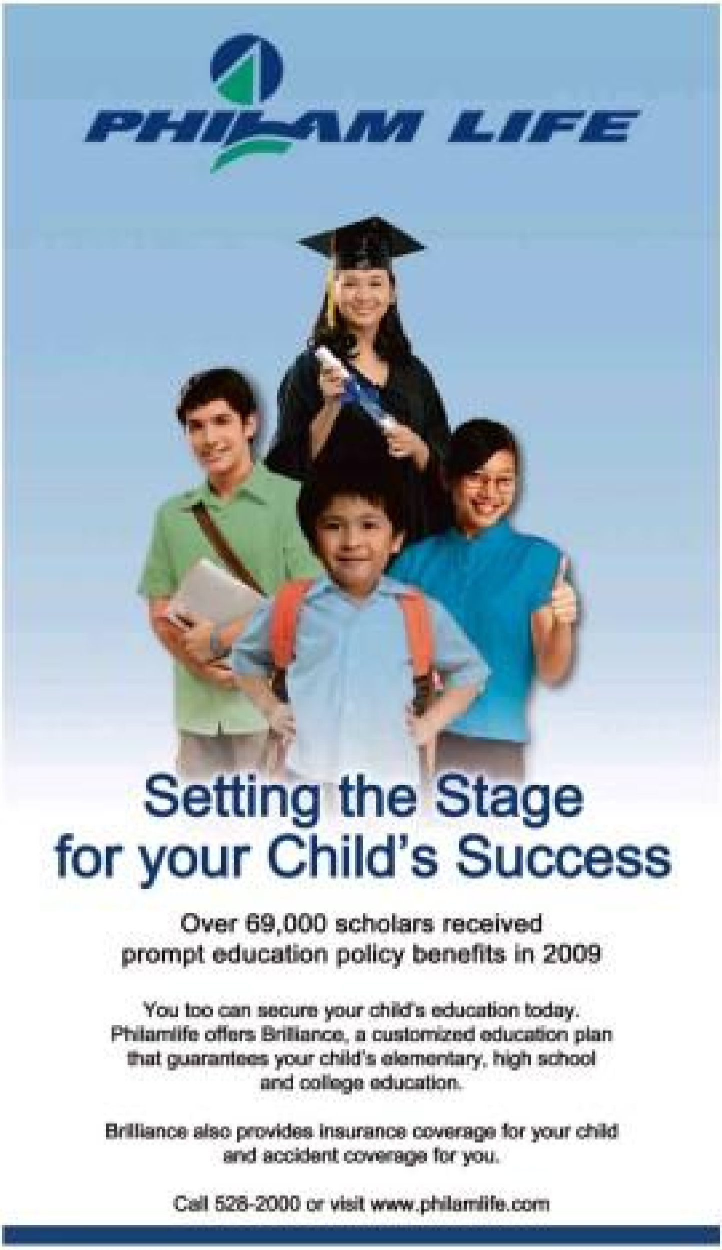
Shares ...

Philex upbeat on prospects of Surigao mine

Bayugo study yields gold, copper deposits

Century Peak nears Leyte nickel plant deal

Cheap fares pushed up air travel in Jan.-Sept.



Cebu Pacific shelves plans to raise cash through IPO

Execs say airline still in the pink of financial health

Megaworld sees ₱4B in warrants trade

DISCLOSURES

First Gen sets out to raise ₱15B in stock rights offer

RP to post faster growth ...

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Dubai debt delays revive fear of financial crisis



Japan mired in deflation

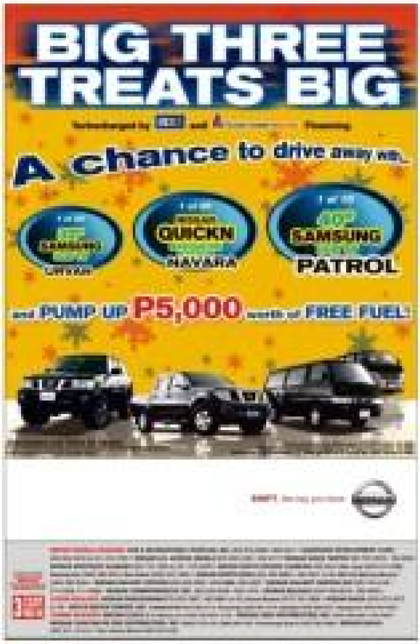


Shares skid on Dubai debt worries

Travels abroad popular again

Acer launches Android phone

Saab's road ahead leads to shutdown or rescue

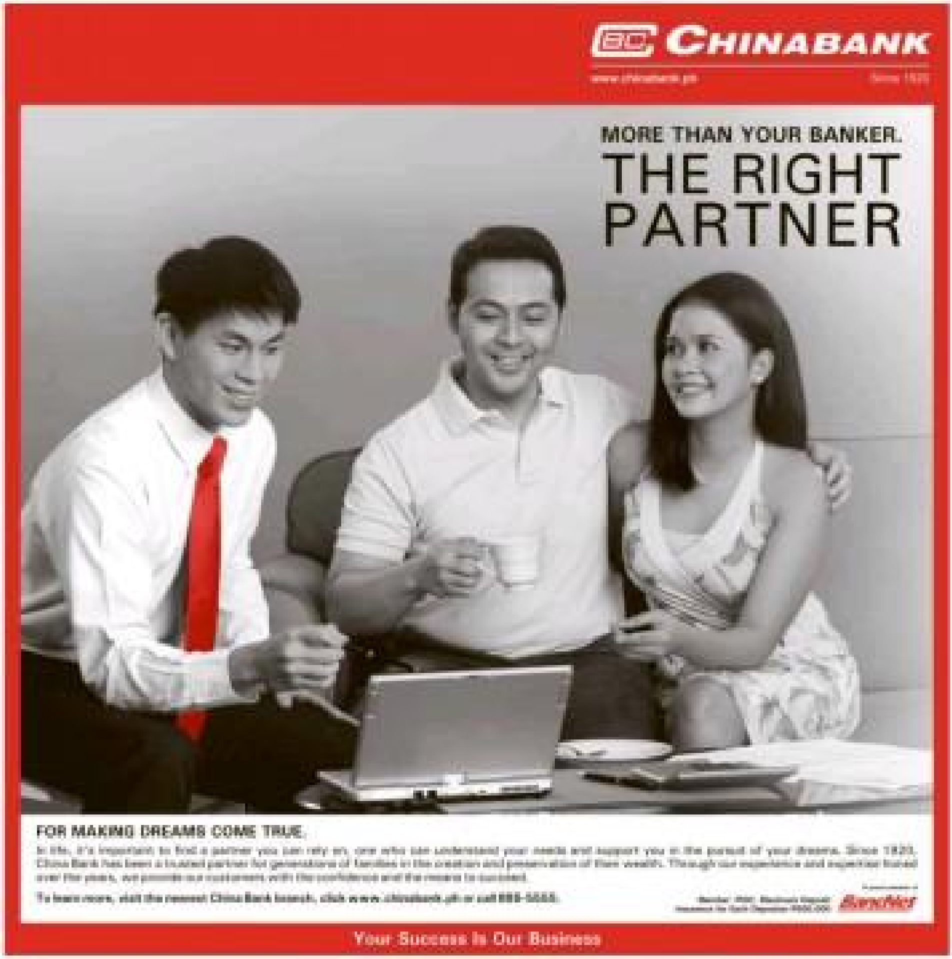


Business

RP to post faster growth in ’10, says Goldman Sachs

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PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Manganang



4 buying pitfalls overseas Pinoys must avoid

Some overseas buyers conclude sale without checking the property

By Tessa R. Salazar

DEVELOPERS GO THROUGH great lengths just to entice overseas-based Filipino property buyers, even holding road shows abroad to directly connect with overseas workers, whose dreams include owning a house and lot, and probably one or two more properties after they retire or return back home.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

Selling organs kills more poor Pinoys, donation advocates say

By Tessa R. Salazar

PLEASE, DON'T THROW away your kidneys."

Disparity widened

Widespread brokering

Greater impediment

Signatory

Politicians, stress, heart attack and stroke

(Conclusion)

MEDICAL FILES



Rafael Castillo, M.D.

Osteoporosis risk rising

A dipstick test for food quality

DISCOVER



Maricor Soriano

Test strips

Good news

More young Pinoys getting diabetes

By Charles E. Buban

Close to 8 million



Design approaches for healthcare

Design Dimensions







Pivotal role

Change appeal



Prime location advantages at The Exchange Regency

Life-enhancing amenities



THE EXCHANGE Regency



DMCI Homes unveils nurturing spaces of 'Cedar Crest'



Accessibility

Architectural features





PROPERTY



THE PRISTINE fairways of the Manila Golf & Country Club welcome you home every day at 8 Forbes Town Road.



8 FORBES Town Road Golf View Residences is the lucky address at Forbes Town Center, Bonifacio Global City.

A lucky address: 8 Forbes Town Road



LUCKY shift from blue to green and vice versa at the infinity-edge pool of 8 Forbes Town Road.

IF YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE luckiest address ever in Bonifacio Global City, you don't have to search any further. The jackpot residential address is at 8 Forbes Town Road.

Why is it so lucky? First, it's all about numerology. The Chinese regard 8 as a very lucky number because it looks like the infinity symbol. Luck for your family will go round and round once you reside or invest here. Second, it's the last residential condominium project at the five-hectare Forbes Town Center.

And best of all, it's the last prime piece of property bordering the pristine greens of the Manila Golf & Country Club. "Forbes Town Center, where 8 Forbes Town Road is located, offers more than half a kilometer long of fairway views. It's the best view to relax your mind after a long business day," remarked Megaworld FVP for Marketing and project head Noli Hernandez.

16 luxurious amenities

Megaworld Corp., the country's No. 1 residential condominium developer, has outfitted 16 luxurious amenities for 8 Forbes Town Road. These include an infinity pool with a view of the fairways, a jogging path and a celebration.

Meanwhile, the grand lobby of 8 Forbes Town Road offers a spectacular view of the perfectly manicured greens. A grand welcome awaits you indeed, every time you arrive at your lucky address.

Lucky homes at 8 Forbes Town Road range from one-bedroom affairs to three-bedroom suites. The Forbes Town Center showroom is located at the corner of Rizal Drive and 26th Street in Bonifacio Global City. Or check out www.megaworldcorp.com.



SOUTH HAMPTON PLAN

NorthPine Land Inc. (formerly Jardine Land Inc.) submitted its development plan for South Hampton, its latest housing project, to Sta. Rosa Mayor Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno (seated). The plan was submitted by NorthPine Land officials led by General Manager Alberto B. Nobles (second, left) during a recent courtesy call on the mayor. With Nobles are (from left) Edgar M. Vallanga, vice president, Technical Management; Rolando R. Dimaya, senior supervisor for Business Development; and Maidy F. Cruz, head, External Affairs. NLI will soon launch the first Victorian-inspired community of its kind in the investment capital of South Luzon that offers modern conveniences within its reach. It is perfect for a family who dreams of a quiet life outside the metro.

PROPERTY

Boracay welcomes new property to its shores

Investors looking for high-quality beachfront property will find this investment opportunity unparalleled in Boracay



Boracay welcomes new property to its shores



MASSIVE SAVANNAH DEV'T



Camella marks 10 years in Western Visayas

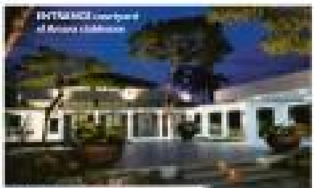




Savannah best illustrates how massive the Camella communities have grown

Filinvest Land opens South Station

Amara by the sea



ENTRANCE courtyard of Amara clubhouse



SEAFRONT trellised deck connecting the parks

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Moryan de Guzman Jr

THE SEA IS A SOURCE OF life. It never ceases to give us gifts of wonder and worth. This is why communities are born by the sea or around bodies of water. Cebu boasts of one such community, Amara. This is a high-end seaside residential development that sits on a 46-hectare spread in Barangay Catarman, Liloan, Cebu, only 18 kilometers from the city. The area includes a panoramic view of the Camotes Sea from the promontory of Catarman. It is a joint venture project of Ayala land affiliate, Cebu Holdings Inc., with Coastal Highgrace Ventures Development Inc.

The name amara is derived from the Spanish word for the mooring rope used to anchor ships at port. Amara was so named to convey the idea of home where a family will find safe harbor. It also incorporates the Spanish words "mar," the sea, and "amar," to love, which is in fact the essence of the place. It is a place by the sea that you would certainly love.

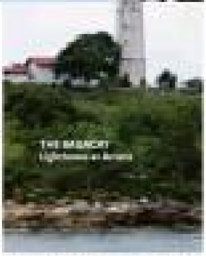
Our ancestors could not have been wrong in choosing to live by seas and waterways. It is not just a life source for a multitude of living things, but likewise provides a source of regeneration and renewal. An exceptional quality of life is indeed found here, by the sea, where one gets fresh air, daily views of the sunset, peace and tranquillity.

Another remarkable feature found within the community is the century-old Spanish lighthouse of Bagacay. Such structure is fascinating, since it brings one back in time and inspires feelings of safety and ease. It gives a historic view of the past, as well as guaranteeing a great view of the horizon every time. Imagine waking up each morning to marvel at this sight.

Amara also offers amenities for other activities from social and active to quiet and relaxing. On site stands a world-class clubhouse spacious enough to host three social functions simultaneously, swimming pools on different levels, pocket parks and a sports center.

Walking through connecting parks, amid lush or manicured landscaping, even down to the seafront is a breathtaking experience which residents and guests of Amara can certainly enjoy. Amara is a seaside haven where you can rejuvenate your spirit and revitalize family ties. It is truly a pearl of great price, a gift of wonder and worth.

Please e-mail your comments and questions to moryandeguzman@yahoo.com.



THE SEAROFT Lighthouse at Amara



PARTIAL view of Amara clubhouse



AMARA water features



THE DECK at Amara for outdoor functions and casual gatherings

Experience green living at Manhattan Heights

Eco-friendliness and "green" living have become all the rage in today's highly urbanized and globalized society. In the face of the looming threats of climate change, people are keen to go beyond it to balance and living considerately.

Thus, Megaworld Corporation, the country's premier real estate developer, builds a residential hub that is transit-oriented as well as thoughtful of people's need for rest and respite. Manhattan Heights is a four-tower reserve along Gen. Romulo Avenue in Araneta Center. The third phase of Manhattan Garden City, the new hot property offers executive studios, one- and two-bedroom units for discerning homeowners who wish to have the combination of urban convenience with the calm and quiet atmosphere of the Araneta Center.

Perfect for environment-conscious dwellers, Manhattan Heights' strategic location allows easy movement through the metropolis without using a car. Just through the highly accessible MRT and LRT train lines. From your Manhattan Heights unit, travel only 11 minutes to Makati, 9 to Alabang, 10 to Malate and 28 in Ortigas by, perhaps the greenest mode of travel in the metro.

Also an attractive feature for the young urban professionals is the Sky Garden floors located at the four topmost floors of each tower. Tree-lined jogging paths, swimming pools with in-pool lounges, kids pool and playground are only a few of the relaxing amenities that the prime property offers at the fourth floor podium deck. A gym, reflecting pools, meditation areas, outdoor spas and sitting areas to complete the scaped areas, gardens and courts give you the needed breathing space where you can simply read a book or have an aromatherapy massage.

"Manhattan Heights is one's answer to today's common people of stress, traffic and lack of space. Apart from making it a highly accessible transit-oriented property, we have made the spacious, open retreat for those who desire a natural lifestyle," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu said.

To start living green, visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall. You may also call 910-3333 or email inquiries@manhattangardencity.com to make a viewing appointment.

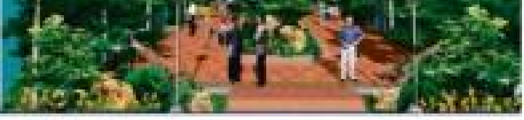


GREEN PROJECT: With its sky garden and green rooftops, Manhattan Heights in Manhattan Garden City, Araneta Center is Megaworld's greenest project yet.



GREEN TRANSIT: By living at Manhattan Garden City, you won't need to take the car to reach Gateway Mall and other Araneta Center attractions.

SKY HIGH: All four towers of Manhattan Heights will host a sky garden on the four topmost floors.



PROPERTY

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

Something new awaits homebuyers at Montecito



ARTIST'S perspective of Montecito's typical streetscape

IT CAN BE HARD TO IMAGINE a place in Metro Manila where a person could stop and look up at a clear blue sky and take a breath of fresh, clean air. Skyscrapers and traffic have become so much a part of everyday life that it's easy to believe that everywhere else is just the same.

But tranquility is not too far off, because beyond the skyscrapers of Metro Manila is Montecito, an exclusive community where the world seems to slow down to a friendly, easy-going pace.

Montecito rises out of the rolling hills of Nuvali in Canlubang, Laguna. It has a modest area of 58 hectares—keeping it quiet and exclusive and where homes are situated among lush, landscaped parks and wide greenways.

Model of sustainable living

Montecito sits at the heart of Nuvali, the 1,700-hectare urban center master-planned on a model of sustainable living. Nuvali is regarded as the first real eco-community in the Philippines. It is a city of the future, where its planning and operations are centered on the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Though only about 30 to 45 minutes by car from the Alabang commercial district, life at Montecito feels a world away from the metropolis. Magnificent nature embraces the community as far as the eyes can see. In place of concrete and asphalt are the sights of Laguna de Bay and surrounding mountain ridges.

Lowest density dev't

Developed jointly by Ayala Land Premier and Montecito Properties Inc., Montecito is Ayala Land's lowest density development since Forbes Park. Divided into four areas and designed with less than five residential lots per hectare of land, Montecito affords every home the luxury of freedom and space.

"The first two tranches sold out in a matter of months despite the challenging conditions this year," says Jose Juan Z. Jugo, head of the Land & Houses group of Ayala Land Premier.

"Ayala Land Premier has received many inquiries since then and we are aware of the demand for Montecito properties, so this final phase of the project was formulated correspondingly," he adds.

Newest phase

Now, Ayala Land Premier launches the most charming quarter yet of Montecito, because this time, the newest phase of the development has been further enhanced and redesigned to offer the most enjoyment in Montecito living.

"We developed the greenways in front of the lots rather than in the back unlike in earlier tranches," Jugo says.

"This allows for a wider and more scenic streetscape as well as providing these properties with enhanced privacy and quiet and of course a much more impressive façade with a long driveway."

Like the rest of the Montecito community, the new quarter will enjoy a lifestyle of tranquility amid nature's beauty. The Montecito Lake and landscaped parks await residents for picnics, long walks and outdoor fun.

Recreation center

Paso Tiempo, Montecito's exclusive clubhouse, is being redeveloped into the community's recreation center. Rich with a heritage of family values and tradition, it was once home to the Yulos of the Canlubang Sugar Estate. Today, it is poised once more to serve as a place where families and friends could come together and grow with the values of amity and tradition.

"The greenways flowing here in our newest phase connect to a lake and which lead to the Paso Tiempo grounds," Jugo says.

"Most of the lots are also located beside the tiny sanctuary of Nuvali—a protected forest of mature trees which will forever be dedicated to green space," he adds.

Available lots

Being Ayala Land Premier's lowest density development since Forbes Park, only 32 lots are available here. Their sizes range from 745 to 1,315 square meters.

While demand for Montecito properties is admittedly high, Montecito living has always been about space and tranquility surrounded by the richness of nature, and the newest phase at Montecito stays true to this standard.

Life could get so busy that we have little time left to delight in what really matters, but it shouldn't be so in our own homes.

At Montecito, there is a place to come home to and leave everything else behind. Here, the world slows down so we can enjoy home, family and community in a uniquely privileged setting.

Super LifeStyle
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Section Editor Pam Pastor



Lenka in Manila this December

The Australian singer-songwriter talks about her music and how 'super excited' she is over her forthcoming concert

By Pam Pastor

IT'S 11:30 A.M. AND THE phone is ringing. It's Lenka, calling from Los Angeles.

The Australian singer-songwriter has a lot to share. After all, she had quite a year. Her album, released in the US in September 2008 was made available in Europe and Asia, leading to tours and numerous festival appearances.

Her songs have received heavy radio airplay around the world. Her first single, "The Show," has been used in Old Navy and Ugly Betty commercials and the movie "Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging." Her other songs have been heard on Grey's Anatomy and 90210.

Quite a jump from her life as a teenage actress in Australia in the '90s.

Today, Lenka no longer stars in TV shows and movies; she wows audiences with her music and her artsy live performances. She creates what she calls "Lenkaland" on stage with her boyfriend James Gulliver Hancock, a visual artist and illustrator who is responsible for her album art as well.

Lenkaland will be coming to Manila in December. Lenka will be going around different SM malls to perform and meet her fans.

You were acting for quite a while. What made you decide to take the leap to music?

I wanted to do something where I had more creative control. First of all, I went to art college and I majored in sculpture. But I realized I needed to be performing, and I'm kind of the extrovert type person so I started to do a bit more music. I've always done a little music because my dad's a jazz musician and I learned instruments when I was a kid. I grew up around music, I just never wanted to do it myself until one day I did. When I started to play the piano and write songs, it felt so good to me I realized that's what I should have been doing.

How do you feel about your name constantly being linked to Cate Blanchett?

Sometimes I get a bit embarrassed, but I understand. She's definitely the most famous name involved in the story of my life and people always want to have some sort of person to hold on to, I guess. I hope she doesn't read all those news articles and hate me. (laughs)

Do you miss acting?

Sometimes I do. But I feel like I kind of get to do that anyway with music videos and performing on stage and performing on TV. It's similar. The only difference is I'm not playing characters anymore. I'm playing my own story which I find more satisfying.

How autobiographical are your songs?

There's a lot of myself in there but I don't always get that specific. I try to keep it universal. It's like trying to find the balance between being personal and relatable for the listener. To make the song honest, it has to come from somewhere inside me, how I feel about the world or whatever it is I'm writing about. Then I try to open it up so that it's universal as well.

Do you have a favorite song from the album?

I change my mind all the time. (laughs) At the moment, my favorite is "Don't Let Me

LENKA, C4



LENKA

















NUVALI partners in community development, creating a place where people can thrive sustainably

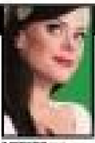






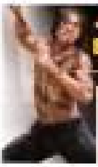


Lenka in Manila this December



Super LifeStyle



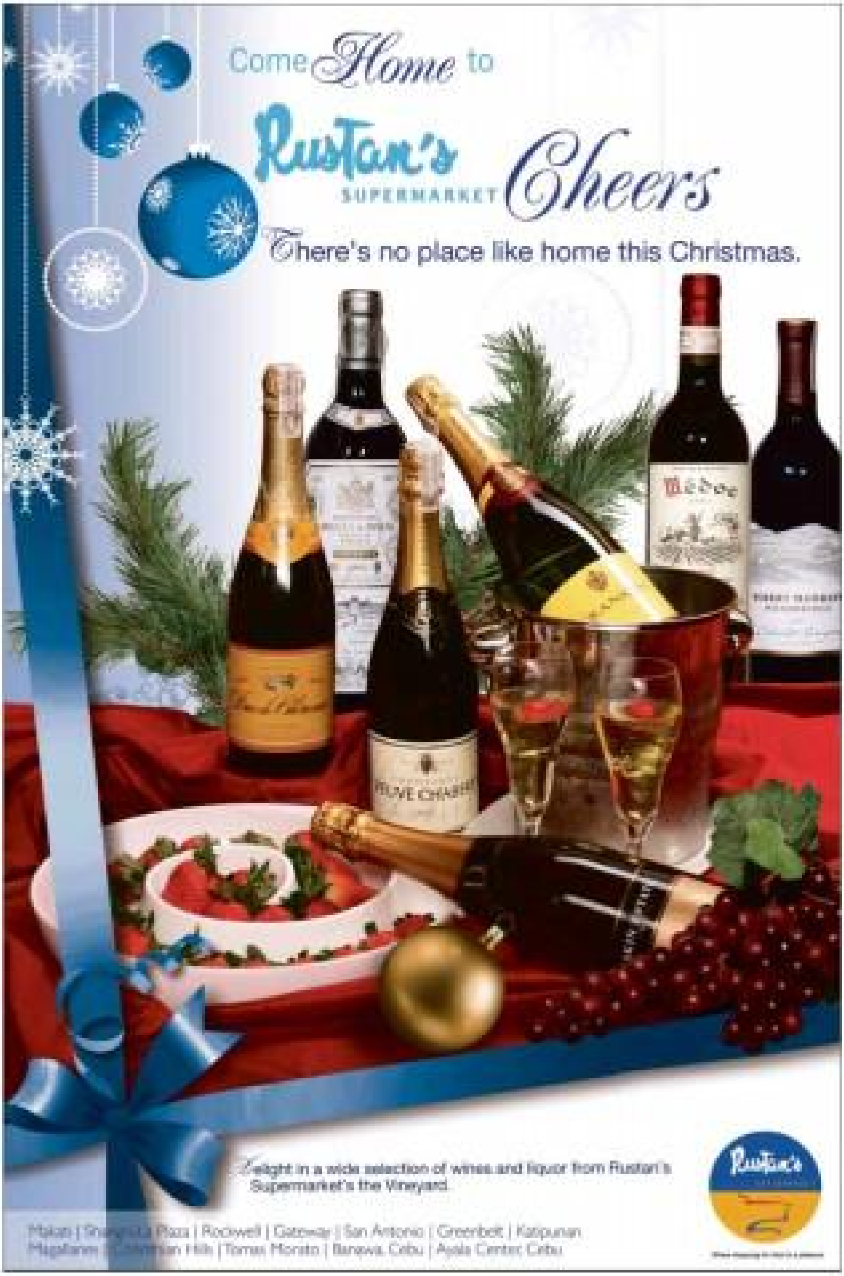


SUPER EXCLUSIVE

There will be blood (a lot of it)

Director James McTeigue turns Korean popstar Rain into a mean 'Ninja Assassin'

Plausible setting



SUPER EXCLUSIVE

'I thought I was a horrible cover artist'

Is James Jean prepared to be kissed by a fan? 'As long as it's a girl,' he says





TOP: sketch for Super. LEFT: signed copy of "Fingers."

Fan-demonium and fireworks at James Jean's Manila tour





GETTING up close with a fan

'What shampoo do you use? Because you have awesome hair'

Creative process

There will be blood (a lot of it)



D

There will...

'I thought



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DREAMING OF SPENDING A white Christmas with your loved ones? Live out your Yuletide fantasies at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort from Nov. 20, 2009 to Jan. 3, 2010. Sparkling lights and falling snow will transform the entire Resort into a magical winter wonderland. It will be a perfect holiday to remember!
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LIGHTS OF WINTER
MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS
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2bU LIFESTYLE



5 Pinoy fashion bloggers

online

As one of them says: 'If you can't afford it, make it!'









5 Pinoy fashion bloggers serve style treats online

Tin Iglesias, 19



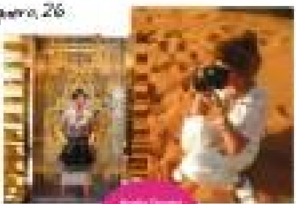
Danielle Gonzales, 2[illegible]



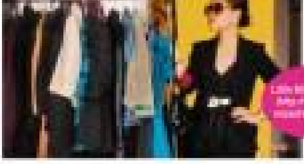
Ivy Tuason, 23



Nicole Chantal Roquero, 26



Hanna Chua Yu, 22



Five reasons why nerds are hot

Natalie Portman, Will Smith, Johnny Depp—they're all fellow geeks



Super LifeStyle



Scott Schuman, aka The Sartorialist, looks like a modern-day Cary Grant—at 5'5



THE SARTORIALIST in Spain for the first time to promote his book

Great Scott!

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

MADRID, SPAIN—DRESSING up to meet The Sartorialist is like getting ready for a first date. You want to look impeccable to make a good first impression, but you also don't want to seem like you tried way too hard—like you kidnapped Lady Gaga and took off with her clothes. On a bicycle.

I decide to go with something cool and classic—black high heel leather boots, my best jeans, tailored jacket, vintage Hermès scarf, my mother's antique ivory bracelet, and my Canon SLR camera "casually" slung over my shoulders.

When I get to the press conference and notice everyone's dressed like they were all going on a first date, too. Whew.

I soon espy a woman wearing the most heavenly black and white printed platform brogues. Hers are even the neighbor's envy... I tell myself. Though no one will admit it out loud, I'm pretty sure almost every one present has entertained the thought that maybe, just maybe, the celebrated fashion photographer might just pluck you out from the crowd for a snapshot, upload you on his famous blog, and immortalize you in the fashion annals.

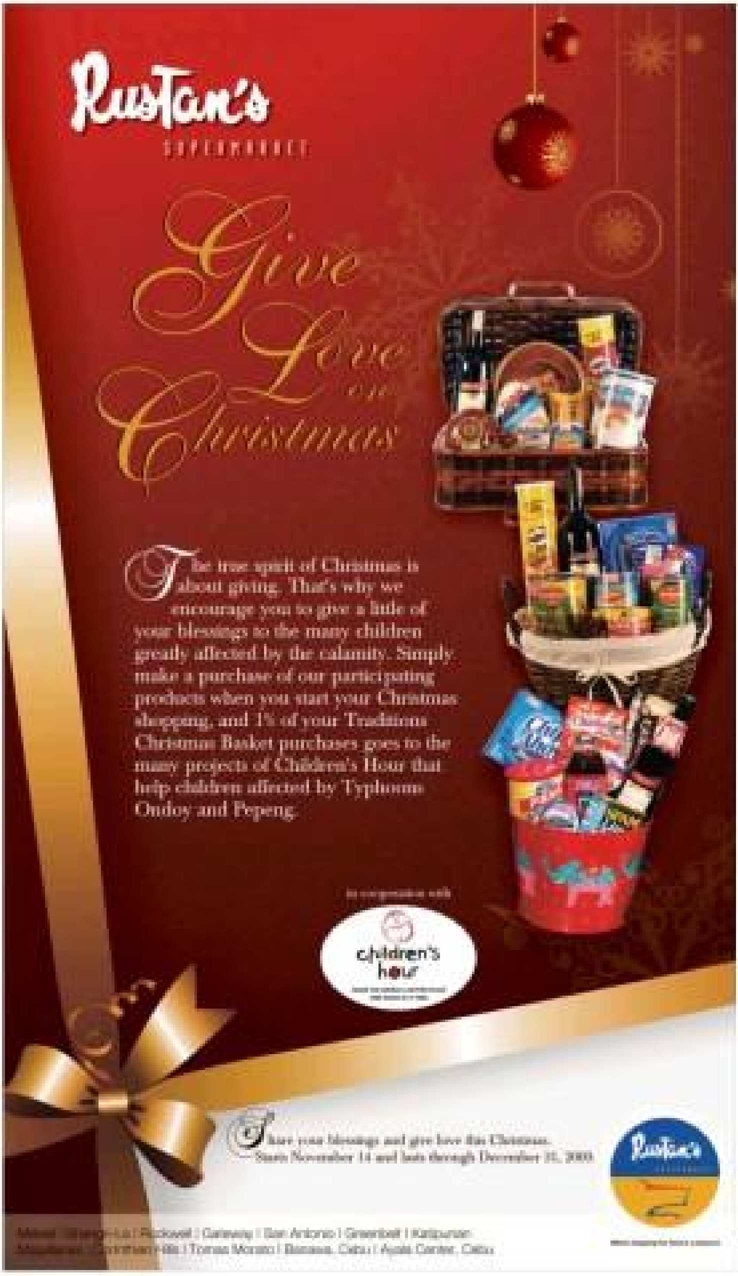
For the moment, though, the great arbiter of style finds himself on the other side of the camera lens, as the subject of scrutiny by the stylish Spanish media. This is his first time to visit Spain, to promote his book, "The Sartorialist," a collection of his favorite photographs through the years.

Popular blog

Dressed elegantly in a crisp suit, The Sartorialist looks like a modern-day Cary Grant. A rather pint-sized one at that, as he barely stands at 5'5. Then again, you hardly dwell on that, as he simply towers above the rest with such panache.

With a moniker that sounds like a comic book superhero, Scott Schuman could very well be street fashion's savior. His extremely popular blog, thesartorialist.blogspot.com, visually chronicles the extraordinary style of ordinary people on the street. His blog soon caught the eye of the big fashion magazines

GREAT P2



Hunting for eggs—on Facebook

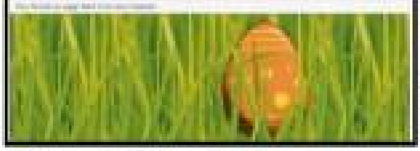


The one with a tutu hatched into a ballerina





Awesome artwork

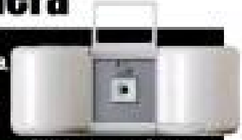


SUPER FIND

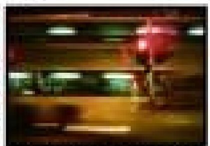
Digital Harinezumi—yep, it's a camera

She says

Not a signature Dragonball move, but the coolest thing to happen to amateur photography



SEE THE world through off-kilter lenses.



THE CAMERA captures dreamy, out-of-focus images.

Settings

He says



Great Scott!



Hobby

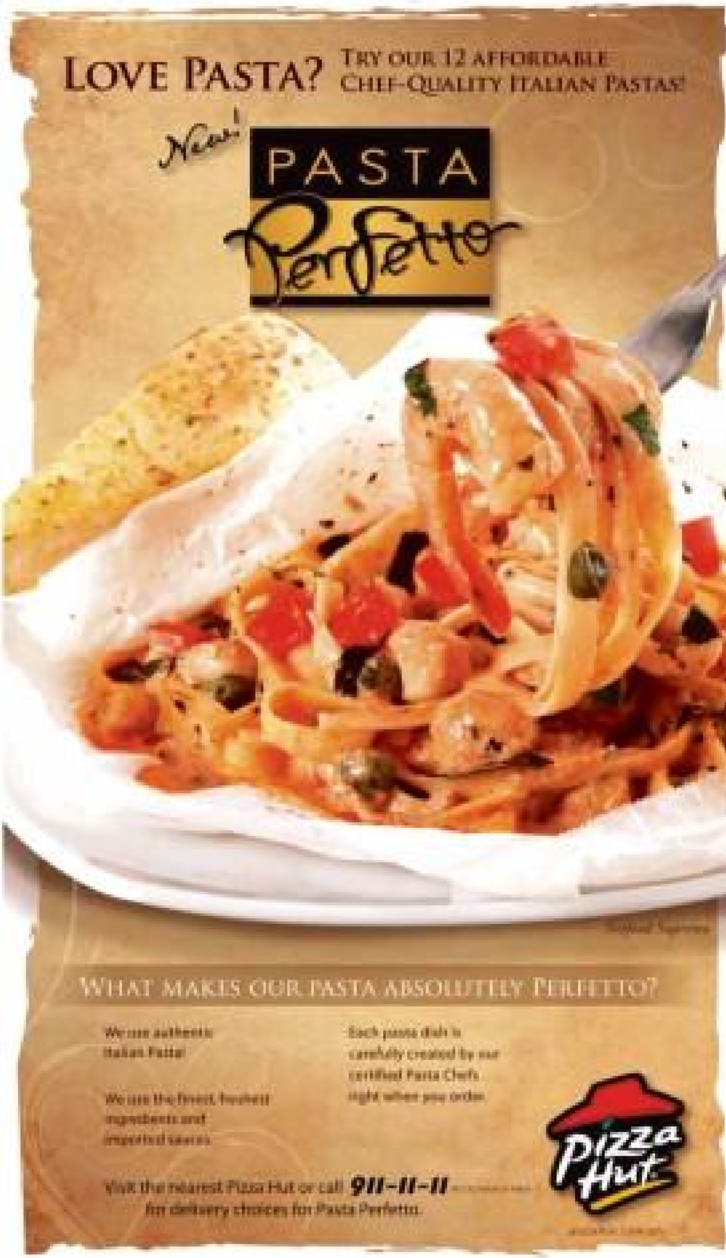
Chef-Quality Pasta Perfection from Pizza Hut











Buying gadgets in Hong Kong? Careful!

By Thale Yang



> Scams are disguised as a sales pitch. Be warned

Do your research

No gadget, no pay

Accreditation

Chain stores

2bU LIFESTYLE

Model-radio DJs heat up the airwaves



Pump up the volume for Sarah Meier and Vicky Herrera



20-year-old student is Cebu's latest fashion whiz

Casual tees celebrate young adult books

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

'Festive Season' at Marriott Hotel

Celebrate your merry Christmas party at Century Park Hotel

Holly days, happy nights at Traders Hotel

Extended Edsa Shang pre-holiday sale

Crossroads Café: breakfast, meetings, and more

Planta Centro Bacolod Hotel special promo

Find joys this holiday season at Lancaster Hotel

Lighthouse Marina Resort's 'Save My Bay'

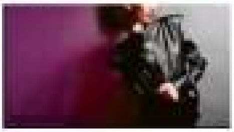
20-year-old student is Cebu's latest fashion whiz





MIQUE YAPCHING

On Madonna, Mique Yapching says, 'She's a goddess!'



Inspirations

Tours, Leisure & Chow

The luxurious charms of Nandana in Boracay



SHI, FEU CONTRACT SIGNING



TEXAS SMOKE 'EM, THE BEST RIBS IN TOWN



Model-radio DJs ...

Style walkers

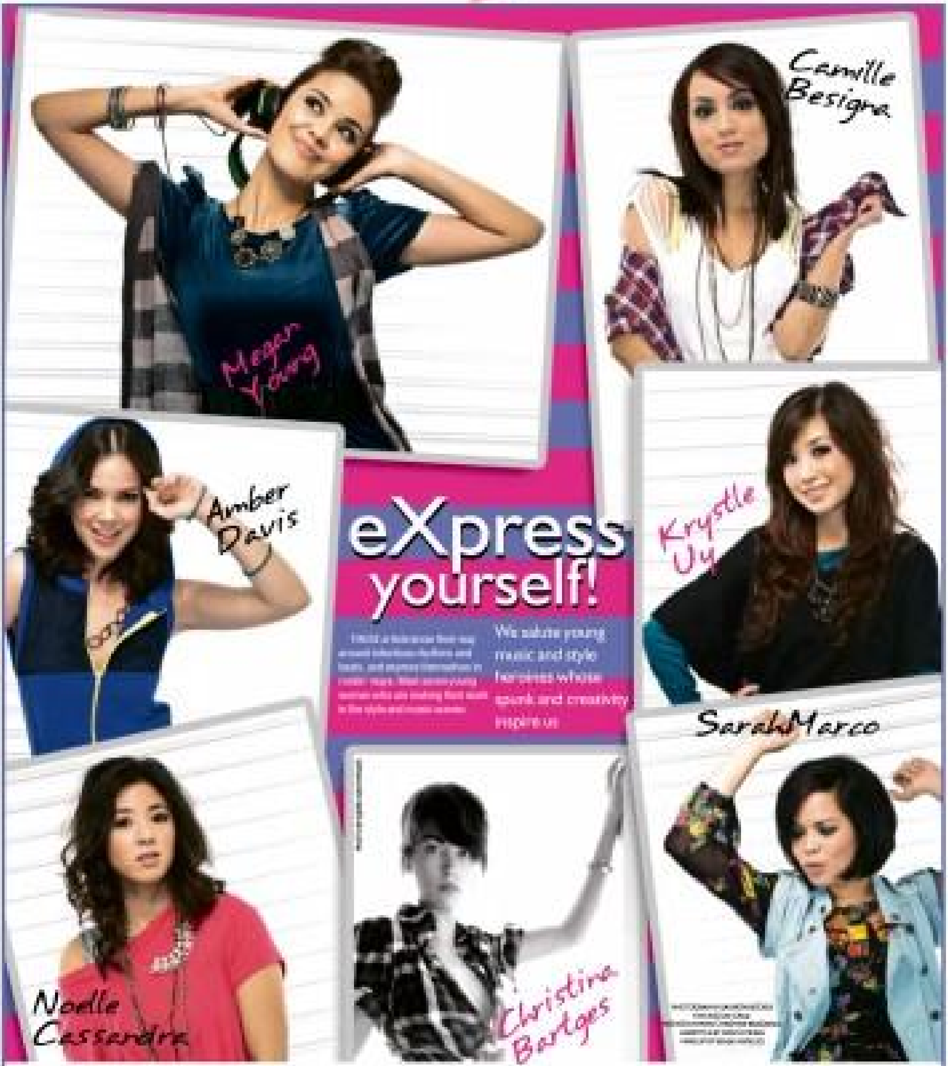
Creatures of chic strut their stuff on the street and on campus



Casual tees celebrate young adult books



Super LifeStyle



eXpress yourself!

We salute young music and style heroines whose spunk and creativity inspire us

Sounds pretty

Nokia 5530 XpressMusic touches all the right notes for music lovers



NOKIA 5530 XpressMusic is a great music player with 27 hours of playback time.



THE PHONE has a 2.9-inch widescreen interface.



YOU GET 500 songs free from the Universal Music website.



Megan Young

Q&A



Q&A

eXpress yourself!



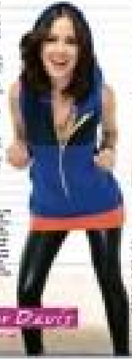


Q&A

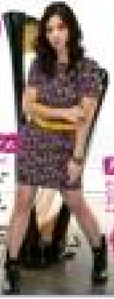


Nokia 5530 XpressMusic





Amber Davis





super Music news Xpress

Music jam

Nokia, Island Def Jam Music Group, Universal Music Group International and superstar artist Rihanna announce breakthrough global music partnership



Get your music fix from around the globe

I want!

Check out the latest and upcoming Xpress Music phones from Nokia



NOKIA 5130



NOKIA 5730

Taylor Swift wins five American Music Awards

Singer Robbie Williams to court investors

Michael Jackson wins 4 at American Music Awards



RIHANNA SELENA Gomez CARRIE Underwood ALICIA Keys



The Independent Artists Club presented by Nokia Music celebrates the spirit of freedom by giving you the stage to shine!

Music Club



TECHYROMANTICS

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY Special



PATTINSON, STEWART AND LAUTNER: Lapses in judgment

NOW SHOWING

Selling the sizzle more than the steak

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Twilight Saga: New Moon"

D: Chris Weitz

S: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner

THE "TWILIGHT" SAGA CONTINUES TO sweep romance-starved tweeners and adult viewers off their feet. Last week, we saw how Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner made moviegoers shriek and swoon—and we can only imagine the ferocious adulation escalating when the franchise's third installment, "Eclipse," has the hunky Jacob Black (Lautner) traipsing into the "dark side."

In "New Moon," the lovesick human teenager, Bella Swan (Stewart), is in dire emotional straits once again: After her 18th birthday party with Edward Cullen's (Pattinson) family goes awry (she cuts herself and instantly becomes prey to her boyfriend's blood-thirsty siblings), Bella's 109-year-old paramour suddenly decides to keep her out of harm's way—by breaking up with her!

Brooding heroine

After she shakes off a major bout with depression, Bella maps out a plan to lure Edward back—by doing exactly what he begged her not to do: Get reckless. Enter Jacob, who no longer looks like the scrawny, shy guy he was in "Twilight." And, he is apparently attracted to our monotonously brooding heroine.

But, as Bella warms up to her unusually shirtless friend and new admirer, it doesn't take long for her to discover there's more to Jacob than his chiseled

TURN TO PAGE





Kara on Ellen: 'Idol' chemistry is crucial



DIGUARDI. Puts the talent show's contestants through their paces.

Rejection

First job

Reuters



DEGENERES. "IDOL's" newest judge.

Underwhelming finale for 'Celebrity Duets'

By Nestor U. Torre



DOMINIC. "Knocked out" due to insufficient votes.

Survivors

Sense of fun

Selling the sizzle more than the steak

From page 8

Effortless charm



"NEW MOON." Bella is torn between a handsome bloodsucker and a buffed werewolf.

OPM artists unite in benefit concert







With commitment, good things GROW.

THE DIGNITY OF HARD WORK.
THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN.
LIFE CAN ONLY GET BETTER.



*Photo of partners upcycling old directories and newspapers into baskets.

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With products made through livelihood programs in partnership with NUVALI, local Laguna communities are able to craft a better future for themselves.

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If you've ever experienced how it feels to do work you're proud of, then you know how it feels to be part of a community partnership with NUVALI.

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IN THIS ISSUE
The fat lady finally sings in Oprah's "opera"

SATURDAY Special





Performance capture enhances Dickens' story of redemption



Technology



Lou Veloso is on a roll



Ex-convict



IMAX

TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

PODIUM

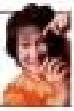
luzon

visayas • mindanao



LIAO AND DE GUZMAN (WITH SOLIMAN, CENTER): Serving the underserved.

New doctors pay it forward



Street Smart

Mandy Navasero

Scholarships

Performance capture ...

Experiment

Lou Veloso is on a roll

Sense of humor

Sitcom

The fat lady finally sings in Oprah's 'opera'



By Hector R. Torre

TV network

Battle of the bulge

Enlightening words of wisdom

Lotus Pond



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Difficulty

Sandra Bullock buoys up conventional football flick







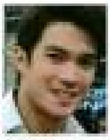


Young filmmakers honored



MONTAGE









SATURDAY Special





LOREN: Returns to acting in Rob Marshall's big-screen musical, "Nine."

'I envy myself'—Sophia Loren



Only in Hollywood
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"I envy myself." When you are Sophia Loren, you certainly would and should. But, to qualify her statement, the iconic actress was actually talking about how she overcame hardship and poverty, and managed to accomplish a lot.

[illegible] Sophia speaks candidly, but she [illegible] at a [illegible] press con [illegible] the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. "Why do you think I have nothing more to prove?" she shot back at one point. Then, she charmed everyone and made us laugh with "I'm still thinking what I am going to do when I grow up." At 75, she's still very glamorous, her lips full and her famous cleavage still on display.

Legendary men

One of the glamorous women featured in Rob Marshall's film adaptation of the stage musical, "Nine," which in turn was inspired by Federico Fellini's "8 ½," Sophia talked in this [illegible] interview about the [illegible] legendary men in her life: Producer husband Carlo Ponti, Cary Grant (who was madly in love with her but she chose Carlo, instead), and Marcello Mastroianni, her most memorable screen partner.

"They were six," the Italian diva, who grew up in [illegible] Naples, said of her "Nine" female costars: Nicole Kidman, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, Judi Dench, Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson and Kate Hudson. Daniel Day-Lewis is the lucky actor amid all this [illegible]

CONT. B2







'I envy myself'–Sophia Loren

Heroes in our midst











Trip to Broadway brings back memories



Taylor Lautner rises in 'New Moon'



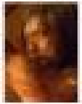


Asian flicks lead Toronto fest's best-of-decade poll



Fight scenes propel predictable action flick





Festival celebrates Ilokano-style Christmas



YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

There's nothing like a Pinoy Christmas

By Sharon Bolen Pimentel



CHRISTMASTIME was Marky's most awaited season, especially when snow started to fall. He loved playing in the snow so much that he would always say, "It's not Christmas if there is no snow!" He grew up in Chicago and spent many real White Christmases there. In fact, he wouldn't trade it for any other place to spend the most wonderful time of the year! But, everything changed when his parents decided to spend Christmas in their hometown in the Philippines.

[illegible]

Festive mood

[illegible]

Outreach program

[illegible]

Lanterns

[illegible]

SATURDAY *Special*

Johnny Delgado takes his final bow

By Bebe Cervantes

[illegible]



JOHNNY (left) with [illegible]

Major attraction

[illegible]

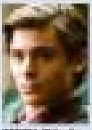
JOHNNY C2



DELGADO: [illegible]

Zac Efron tackles Orson Welles tale

LONDON—Zac Efron [illegible]



EFRON: "It's all about progression, growing and trying out new things."

Franchise

[illegible]

EFRON C2

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN

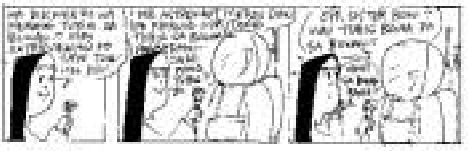


PUGAD BABOY

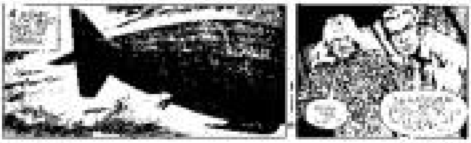


DICK TRACY





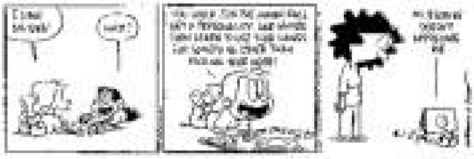
JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



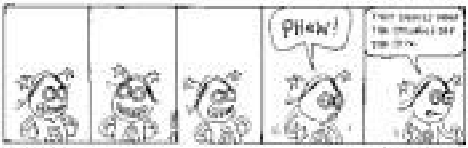
TULDOK



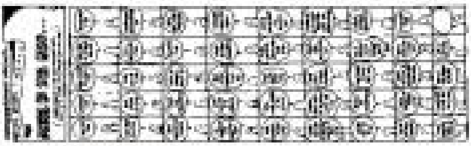
BEN



ATOMO AND WESOY

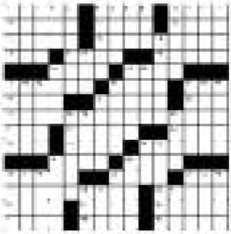


KIKO MACHINE

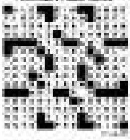


HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	8			2				
5			4	1		3		
				3			1	
	7				6			
8	6	2				1	9	7
			9				4	
	2			4				
		3		6	8			1
				9			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

Johnny Delgado ...



DELGADO He will be sorely missed.

Zac Efron takes...



KIDMAN AND PALTROW Play husband and wife in "The Danish Girl."

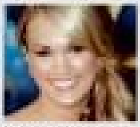
Paltrow joins Kidman in gender-bending feature

Outspokenness becomes Ian McKellen



MCKELLEN ... "The Prisoner."

Underwood says 'Idol' winners should play to fans



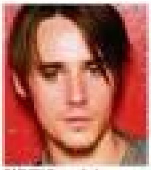
UNDERWOOD ...

Meryl Streep's daughter gets first Hollywood break



GUMMER ... "Gigantic."

Violence against women, teens surges on TV



CARNEY ...

'Spider-Man' sings and swings his way to Broadway

Character actors shine in Tarantino's war drama

By Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

Textured portrait

[illegible]



WALTZ. Won Best Actor at this year's Cannes fest.



LAURENT. Bagged the Cesar for Most Promising Actress.



BRUHL. Breakthrough role came when he was cast in "Goodbye, Lenin."

[illegible]

Dream

[illegible]



"PRECIOUS." On its way to Oscar glory?

'Precious' enjoys charmed life—so far

[illegible]

Hard-luck tale

[illegible]